

Approved as amended by the Board of Selectmen

**TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 22, 2006**

ATTENDANCE: First Selectwoman Evonne Klein; Linda Santarella;
Susan Young

STAFF: Jeremy Ginsberg

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Klein called the Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Zengo stated that she wanted to share with the Board of Selectmen the preliminary results of a survey taken by the Republican Club. She reported that the first question asked was "Do you recommend that the Senior Center remain at the present site?" 61% answered AGREED, 25% DISAGREED, and 14% had NO OPINION. The second question asked was "Would you rather build another senior center?" 14% AGREED, 68% DISAGREED, and 18% had NO OPINION. The third question was "Would you rather build at another site?" 16% AGREED, 66% DISAGREED, and 18% had NO OPINION.

FIRST SELECTWOMAN'S REPORT

The First Selectwoman stated that she wanted to take a minute to address the process of filling a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen. She reported that, according to Chapter 146 of the CT General Statutes, the Board of Selectmen can fill the vacancy and they have 30 days to fill the vacancy. She noted that this was a Republican Party seat which needed to be filled by a member of the Republican Party. She stated that the members of the Board of Selectmen would like to move swiftly, yet thoughtfully, through this process. She reported that she had individual conversations with Board members regarding one candidate and she also received a phone call from someone today interested in filling the vacancy and shared that person's name with the Board members.

She reported that she spoke to Jack Orchulli, RTC Chair, last week and they spoke again today. She stated that he advised her that he had received phone calls from people who were interested in serving and that interviews will be conducted this week. Ms. Klein stated that Mr. Orchulli's goal was to have a name or names before the Board of

Selectmen ready for a vote by the June 5th Board of Selectmen meeting, which is the next regular meeting.

Ms. Klein reported that the Public Hearing on the Darien/New Canaan Health District was held last week and, after the Public Hearing, Philip Weyhe made a presentation for those in the audience. She stated that the RTM meeting that was to be held tonight had been cancelled. Ms. Klein reported that she will be working on scheduling meetings for all elected officials, as well as RTM members and community members, reformatting the information so that it is more user friendly and addresses those outstanding issues as well as answering the most frequently asked questions. She stated that the goal was to have this item before the RTM for a vote this fall.

Ms. Klein reported that she had taken some time to identify those services that they need to provide to Darien residents and she welcomed input from the public on this. She stated that they can improve the delivery of public health services to the Darien community by moving to a Full Time Health Department or forming a Health District. Ms. Klein noted that by not voting to meet the June 1st deadline to receive funding from the 05/06 budget as well as the 06/07 budget; they have forfeited that opportunity. She noted that included in those funds were additional funds up to \$100,000 for bioterrorism and pandemic. She reported that as a Part Time Department, they were ineligible for that funding. She stated that should they vote to approve forming a health district in the fall, or at some point in the near future to form a Full Time Department, she will fight to secure those additional funds for which the Town would then be eligible.

Ms. Klein reported that the CT Main Street Resource Team was in Darien this week. They are meeting with various community groups and on Thursday will have a presentation in the auditorium at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Klein reported that the Southwestern Region Metropolitan Planning Organization voted this morning to support funding for regional rideshare, vanpool and employer/employee services. The funding has already been budgeted by the DOT. She stated that overall, it was the general discussion of the group that they felt that this program was worthwhile, but it has not been successful in the recent past. She stated that she would like to see this take off or divert funding to other transportation improvements.

Ms. Santarella stated that since the resignation of Kevin Newman on May 18, 2006 from the Board of Selectmen, the Darien Republican Town Committee, under the leadership of Jack Orchulli, Chairman, had been taking names of Republicans who were interested in serving out the remainder of Kevin Newman's term. She reported that an Interview Committee had been established and interviews were being arranged. She continued that when that process was complete, the leadership of the RTC (Jack Orchulli and his two Vice-Chairs, Mary Ness and Joi Reiner Gallo) will meet with the two remaining Republican members of the Board Selectmen, herself and Susan Young, to discuss the candidates and results of the interview process.

Ms. Santarella reported that the leadership of the RTC will announce their decision after consulting with herself and Susan Young. She commented that she was not sure that June 5th was a doable date for a Board of Selectmen vote, however they were trying to do this as quickly as they can. She stated that she was looking forward to input from the RTC. Ms. Klein added that it was a full vote from the Board of Selectmen to serve on the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss and Take Action on engaging Redniss & Mead, Inc. to conduct a feasibility study of the Senior Center site

Ms. Santarella asked why, when the proposals were submitted last week, they only received one proposal. Her understanding was that there was another proposal and she asked what that estimate was. Mr. Ginsberg replied that there was a second proposal and a third proposal came in also. He stated that the second proposal was in the amount of \$17,500, and the third proposal was between \$12,800 and \$14,000. He reported that it became clear upon reviewing the three proposals, that Redniss & Mead had more familiarity with the site than the others. He also noted that they were pleased that Redniss & Mead's cost came in at the lowest. Ms. Santarella stated that she wanted to be sure that Redniss & Mead will not exceed their proposed cost of \$9,600. Mr. Ginsberg said they will not.

Ms. Young asked why they were taking \$10,500 from the contingency fund when the amount of the proposal is for \$9,600. Mr. Ginsberg and Ms. Klein did not know why and said they would have to ask Mr. Crary. Mr. Ginsberg stated that the project should start in early June and run throughout the summer. He hoped to have a report for the Board of Selectmen before Labor Day. Ms. Klein stated that they should have a vote on this in October. Ms. Young stated that she wanted to emphasize that Redniss & Mead will stay within the cost limitations. Mr. Ginsberg replied that he would relay that to all the consultants and that the study be constrained.

**** MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE ENGAGING REDNISS & MEAD, INC.'S TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE SENIOR CENTER SITE AT A COST OF \$9,600.**

**** MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b) Transfer:

Administrative Officer

Transfer from Contingency to the Capital Budget to cover the expected costs of preparing a

feasibility study of the Senior Center site off of Edgerton Street. The purpose of the study is to determine what municipal and other uses could be located on the site and what physical and legal limitations exist for its use.

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

From:			To:		
Acct. No.	Account	Amount	Acct. No.	Account	Amount
000-86600	Contingency	\$10,500	To Be Determined	Capital	\$10,500
	TOTAL	\$10,500		TOTAL	\$10,500

Ms. Young questioned why the amount of the transfer was \$900.00 higher than the proposal amount. She wanted to be sure the amount of the proposal for the feasibility study did not exceed \$9,600. Ms. Klein stated that she would ask John Crary for an explanation.

- ** **MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF \$10,500 FROM CONTINGENCY TO COVER THE EXPECTED COSTS OF PREPARING A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE SENIOR CENTER SITE OFF OF EDGERTON STREET.**
- ** **MS. SANTARELLA SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- June 5, 2006 Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- June 19, 2006 Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

(Since this is a special meeting no other business may be added to the Agenda)

- ** **MS. SANTARELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:25 PM.**
- ** **MS. YOUNG SECONDED.**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna DeVito
Telesco Secretarial Services